

21547—Continued.

that after weighing all the evidence, both for and against them, he, personally, is of the opinion that the tree in question is probably a graft-hybrid, this being the easiest way to explain its origin, since so many years have passed since the graft was made. (*Abstracted and translated from the German by W. Fischer.*)

"The tree (in the Botanic Gardens in Christiania) from which these fruits were obtained stands in the vicinity of several varieties. Cross-fertilization is thus not excluded." (*Willc.*)

21548. DENDROCALAMUS STRICTUS.**Bamboo.**

From Sibpur, Calcutta, India. Presented by Mr. A. T. Gage, superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, through Mr. David Fairchild. Received November 11, 1907.

"A very useful and strong bamboo of India, formerly used universally for spear staffs. The plant flowers frequently and does not die down after flowering, as is the case with so many bamboos. The culms are said sometimes to reach a height of 100 feet in the valleys and 40 feet on the hills." (*From Colonel Munro's Monograph of the Bambusaceae.*)

"This bamboo is common in parts of the province of Punjab, India, where the climate is very dry in summer and quite cool in winter, the temperature occasionally falling below freezing." (*Fairchild.*)

21551. CITRUS NOBILIS.**Mandarin.**

From Pretoria, Transvaal. Presented by Prof. J. Burt Davy, botanist, Transvaal Department of Agriculture. Received November 18, 1907.

"*Naartje.* This is a kind of mandarin which to my mind has a much better flavor than the ordinary tangerine of the Mediterranean; the fruit is larger and the skin can be removed quite as easily. I am under the impression that it comes fairly true to seed, but even if this should prove not to be the case, you may find the stocks of some use and the drought and frost resistance of the plant may render it useful for hybridizing or grafting purposes." (*Davy.*)

"The naartje has been produced in Cape Colony for the last two hundred years or more. It is difficult to say whence it came originally, but more than likely from the Dutch East Indies. I do not know of any orange under cultivation either in Florida or California which is the exact counterpart to the fruit which we grow here.

"We have introduced most of the varieties grown in America, and up to the present time none of them, with the exception of Satsuma, have shown the same hardness and drought-resisting qualities as the original varieties in Cape Colony.

"With regard to their resistant powers against frost, I have seen old trees which have stood 15 degrees of frost with very little injury either to the tree or to the crop, and I consider for our purposes that they are the best fruits of the kind which we can grow in this colony. The trees as seedlings attain large sizes—from 16 to 18, and sometimes 20, feet—and they bear a striking resemblance to an ordinary seedling orange in growth. The two varieties are named locally the *Platskill* and *Groenskil*. The meaning of the first word is 'flat or smooth skin,' and it appears also to apply to the shape of the fruit. The skin of this variety adheres closely to the segments, and there is never any of the puffiness which accompanies so many varieties of mandarins; although so closely adhering, it can be easily removed with the thumb and finger, but it is not exactly what one would call a 'kid-glove' orange.

"The word *Groenskil* means green skin, and the fruit of this variety bears more resemblance to the Emperor mandarin perhaps than to most others. It hangs for a long time on the trees in good condition and is the latest ripening variety we have. It is also more hardy than the *Platskill*." (*R. A. David, Transvaal Department of Agriculture.*)

21552 to 21557. DAHLIA spp.**Dahlia.**

From Mexico City, Mexico. Collected by Prof. C. G. Pringle on Sierra de Ajusco, a mountain on the south side of the Valley of Mexico, at an altitude of 8,500 feet, by request of Mr. David Fairchild. Received November 16 and 19, 1907.

Seeds and plants secured for hybridizing purposes.